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NEWS RELEASE

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XYXIS CORPORATION INTRODUCES ERASABLE OPTICAL DISK DRIVE FOR IBM AT and PS/2

October 19, 1989--Eden Prairie, Minnesota--XYXIS Corporation announces the introduction of an erasable magneto optical disk drive, the XY600RW, which is compatible with IBM AT and PS/2. The high density drive is accessed via a SCSI interface board. The software interface supports DOS Versions 3.2 to 4.01.

Each 5 1/4 inch industry standard ISO format cartridge stores up to 600 megabytes of information. The cartridge can be erased more than 1,000,000 times. It can also be removed from the drive for security or portability. The retail price of the XY600RW is \$4,995 excluding the SCSI interface board. The interface kits including SCSI board, software and cables have a retail price of \$695 for AT and \$895 for PS/2. The rewritable cartridges retail for \$275. The optical drive is available for immediate shipment. Attractive discount schedules are available for resellers.

An interface to the Apple Macintosh family of computers is also available for the XY600RW. An interface to Sun Microsystems computers is being developed.

XYXIS Corporation develops high density optical storage devices for personal computers and workstations.



Competitive Strengths

XYXIS Erasable Optical Subsystems

DOS (AT & PS/2)

- ISO/ANSI standard
- DOS Operating system standard format
- Not a proprietary format
- Installs as a standard system disk
- SCSI interface accessed through an I/O Port
- Supports multiple partitions
- Compatible with DOS 3.3, 3.3.1, 4.0 and above
- Device driver is a small 6K
- Easy menu assisted installation
- Mature product
- Supports removable media
- Available for multiple platforms
- Install tests for potential addressing contention

Novell (AT & PS/2)

- Supports NetWare 2.15 & 3.1
- Works with Novell NetWare 286/386 DCB drivers
- Can use up to 4 controllers per server
- Support for up to 8 Erasable drives per controller
- SCSI adapter powered by 80188 coprocessor
- Supports multiple partitions
- Supports removable media
- ISO/ANSI standard
- Disk buffering & no wait states
- Supports Micro Channel POS capability
- Full SFT support and security
- Full mirroring and duplexing supported
- Mount/Dismount supported with eject lockout
- Easy to install

Unix (AT & PS/2)

- Supports SCO Xenix 2.3, 2.3GT and 3.2
- Supports SCO Unix 3.2
- Supports AT&T 3.0, 3.1 and 3.2
- Supports Interactive 386ix 1.0.6, 2.0.1 and 2.0.2
- Supports IBM AIX 1.1
- Provides seamless interface of optical drive to Unix
- Includes full error recovery
- Includes read-ahead caching and disk mirroring
- Includes overlapped seeks and data transfer

Sun Microsystems

- True mount/unmount of individual partitions
- Supports multiple partitions
- Supports removable media with eject lockout
- Unmount inhibited while files active
- ISO/ANSI standard
- Compatible with Sun3, Sun4 and SPARCstation
- Supports SunOS 4.0, 4.0.1, 4.0.3 and 4.0.3c
- Supports newfs, tar and cpio file systems
- Operating system standard
- Not a proprietary format
- Interfaces to Sun's SCSI Port
- Available for multiple platforms

Amiga

- Configurable as boot device
- Amiga 500, 2000, 2500 and 3000
- Supports multiple partitions
- Fred Fish collection with cartridge purchase
- Compatible with AMax II Macintosh emulator
- Operating system standard
- Not a proprietary format
- Interfaces to Amiga 2091 SCSI Interface Adapter
- Easy to install
- Supports removable media
- Available for multiple platforms
- Cartridge holds 20 minutes of animation

Macintosh

- Partitioning utility supports multiple partitions
- Mount/Unmount of partitions through control panel
- Lock option for each individual partition
- Supports removable media with eject lockout
- Configurable as boot device
- Compatible with Macintosh Plus and above
- ISO/ANSI standard drive and media
- Macintosh operating system standard
- Configurable as boot device
- Easy to install
- Mature product
- Available for multiple platforms

Criteria for Selecting Optical Drives

by William Fraser

Proponents of erasable optical disk technology have long suggested that it will replace the magnetic media hard disk drive. Large storage capacities, media removability, data integrity and costly head crash elimination are the major points they expound. The demise of the 100MB Winchester is far from imminent, however the erasable optical disk is poised to begin a serious assault on the drive market.

Here are some simple, yet serious questions that should be asked while qualifying optical products.

Does the product comply with the ISO/ANSI standard? In November 1989, the International Standards Organization approved Standards for the Erasable Optical Drive and for the 600/650MB Erasable Optical Media using the CAV recording method. The standards defines the unrecorded disk cartridge characteristics (ISO/IEC DP 10089-1) and the disk cartridge recording format (ISO/IEC DP 10089-2).

Is the product Operating System standard or does it have a proprietary Format? Many of the OEM manufacturers of Optical Drives comply with operating system standard and users benefit by being able to read and write cartridges across the brand names and for current and future versions of operating systems. The Optical Disk drivers and utilities should be designed to insure that the cartridges are partitioned and formatted with the standard operating system utilities, thereby insuring total compatibility. However, some optical disks come with proprietary partitioning utilities which create cartridges that can be read by only that brand name drive.

Is good technical support available? Some of the Optical Drives are bundled with software drivers and utilities that are not written by the companies that provide the optical disk subsystem. Problems can occur when the technical support channels are non-existent or not well defined.

Is the SCSI Interface accessed through an I/O Port? For PC systems, some of the small computer systems interface (SCSI) boards are memory mapped and others are accessed through an I/O port. DOS does not have memory address reserved for SCSI interfaces. Memory contention problems have been encountered with both devices and application programs. SCSI addressing through I/O ports does not have contention problems.

Does the product support removable media with mount/unmount commands? Platforms such as Macintosh, Sun and other Unix systems do not support the changing of removable media within the operating system. Accidental cartridge ejection on these systems could result in a loss of data or system errors, particularly in multi-user environments. Drivers with full implementation of mount and unmount commands will ensure that cartridges are not ejected until all files are properly closed.

Is the product available for multiple platforms? Equipment standardization and is an important factor for many users. Some of the OEM manufacturers of optical drives provide solutions for several platforms such as AT, PS/2, Macintosh, Amiga and Sun whereas others support only one platform or operating system. In most cases the optical drives themselves are the same and one changes only the controller or adapter kit to fit the specific platform.

Is the product easy to install? Newer high technologies need not be difficult to install and use. The installation should be automated and should include a utility that pretests for conflicts with other devices already installed. How many users know which I/O ports, interrupt channels or memory addresses are already in use? Once installed, the optical drive should behave like another system disk.

What is the size of the device driver? Device driver impact can range in size from 6k to 30k. The larger device drivers have been known to cause high performance application programs to hang.

Does the product support 600 Megabyte 512 byte/sector media? The operating systems for DOS, Novell, Unix, Macintosh, Sun and Amiga, support only 512 byte/sector (600 Mbytes) media and do not recognize 1024 byte/sector (650 Mbytes) media. Products that use the 650 Mbyte cartridges must patch or modify the operating system, resulting in creation of non-standard and proprietary media.

Is it a mature product? Nobody wants to operate on the "Bleeding Edge of Technology". All new products have some bugs that have to be worked out. Selection of a mature product that has been through the first few maintenance upgrades can save a lot of pain and prevent loss of critical data.

Do the recording method and capacity comply with industry standards? Some people still say that Beta is better than VHS, but which has become the standard and which is now obsolete? Since the media has a projected shelf life from 15 to 40 years, it is essential that it conforms to a standard that can be read by multiple brand name drives. The ISO standard includes only 600 and 650 Mbytes capacities and the recording method is continuous composite.

Does the product have reasonable pricing? The pricing scale is wide, for what appears to be functionally equal products the price can differ by as much as \$4,000. The lowest priced products generally don't pass the above criteria and the higher priced products don't offer any additional advantages.

This technology represents an ideal storage solution for a growing number of users. Reasonable care taken in drive selection will ensure maximum compatibility and satisfaction.

William Fraser is the sales manager of XYXIS Corporation, an OEM manufacturer of erasable optical disk subsystems.



DISTRIBUTION PRICING

XYXIS ERASABLE OPTICAL SUBSYSTEMS

			Quantity per order		
	List	1	2-5	6-9	10+
XY600RW-HS	Optical Drive	\$4,995	2,995	2,795	2,695
XY600RW-HS INT	Optical Drive	\$4,575	2,745	2,545	2,445
XY600RW	Optical Drive	\$4,000	2,400	2,250	2,150
XY128RW	Optical Drive	\$1,995	1,395	1,295	1,195
XY128RW INT	Optical Drive	\$1,770	1,260	1,160	1,060
Macintosh Interface		250	150	140	135
AT-DOS Int-P/I/O-No Boot		325	195	185	175
AT-DOS Interface-P/I/O		595	350	335	320
AT-DOS Interface-DMA		695	415	400	385
PS/2-DOS Interface		895	535	515	505
AT-OS/2 Interface		995	595	565	535
PS/2-OS/2 Interface		1,150	695	650	625
EISA-DOS Interface		995	595	565	535
AT-Novell Interface		995	595	565	535
PS/2 Novell Interface		1,150	695	650	625
SUN Micro Interface		1,195	695	675	645
DEC QBUS Interface		1,825	1,095	1,070	1,050
DEC UNIBUS Interface		2,325	1,395	1,350	1,320
DEC ULTRIX Interface		1,595	950	925	900
RS6000 Interface		1,395	835	815	795
Silicon Graphics Interface		1,395	835	815	795
Atari Interface		450	270	250	225
Amiga Interface		250	150	140	135
UNIX, XENIX, AIX Interface		Quote	Quote	Quote	Quote

Interface prices based on total kits purchased

	List	1-5	6-9	10-25	26+
Rewritable Cartridges 128M	75	50	48	46	Quote
Rewritable Cartridges standard	225	135	125	120	Quote
Rewritable cartridges glass	275	165	155	150	Quote

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